

CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A screen assembly for a shale shaker, the screen assembly comprising

- a panel,
- a support structure,
- the panel having an area provided with a multiplicity of apertures and at least one layer of screening material arranged over the multiplicity of apertures,
- the panel having at least one support rib for supporting the panel,
- the panel removable from said support structure, and
- at least one member arranged between said panel and said support structure within the perimeter of said panel over which said at least one support rib and said panel is deflectable such that at least two spans are defined by said panel.

2. - 4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The screen assembly of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said support structure and said panel comprises said at least one member over which said panel is deflectable in use.

6. (previously presented) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said support structure comprises a structural support member and said panel comprises a corresponding support member, which engage to form said at least one member over which said panel is deflectable.

7. (previously presented) The screen assembly of Claim 6 wherein one of said structural support member and said support member has a convex rounded profile and the other has a corresponding concave rounded profile.

1 8. (previously presented) The screen assembly of Claim 6 wherein said
2 structural support member comprises a bar or tube extending across a substantial
3 portion of said structural support.

1 9. (previously presented) The screen assembly of Claim 6 wherein said support
2 member comprises a portions having openings therein.

3 10. - 12. (canceled)

1 13. (previously presented) The screen assembly of Claim 1 wherein said
2 support structure comprises an outer frame and cross members.

3 14. - 38. (canceled)

1 39. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said panel has a pair of
2 opposing sides and a pair of opposing ends, wherein said part of said perimeter is said
3 two opposing sides.

1 40. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 39 wherein said at least one member
2 is arranged equidistant said two opposing sides and is arranged substantially parallel
3 to said two opposing sides.

1 41. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 39 comprising two support members
2 arranged between said two opposing sides and is arranged substantially parallel to said
3 two opposing sides.

1 42. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said panel comprises a
2 perforate plate, said multiplicity of apertures therein.

1 43. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said panel comprises a flat
2 punched plate.

1 44. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said panel comprises a
2 multiplicity of support ribs.

1 46. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said at least one support
2 rib is fixed to said perforate plate.

1 47. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 44 wherein said multiplicity of said
2 support ribs extend across said panel.

1 48. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 47 wherein said perforate plate
2 comprises a series of panel ribs formed in said perforate plate, said support ribs
3 aligned with and underneath said panel ribs.

1 49. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said panel comprises
2 folded portions.

1 50. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 49 wherein said folded portions are
2 perimeter portions.

1 51. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 49 wherein folded portions form said
2 apertures.

1 52. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said at least one layer of
2 screening material is adhered to at least a portion of said panel.

1 53. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said panel has side
2 portions, which are not provided with apertures.

1 54. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 53 wherein said at least one layer of
2 screening material is adhered to said side portions of said panel.

1 55. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 wherein said at least one layer of
2 screening material is adhered to said area provided with apertures.

1 56. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 further comprising a second layer
2 of screening material of substantially the same mesh size.

1 57. (new) The screen assembly of Claim 5 further comprising a coarse mesh
2 backing screen between said at least one layer of screening material and said panel.